

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2010

Five County AOG

PRESENT

Dave Glenn, Ivins City, Public Works Director, Chair
Jack Taylor, Santa Clara City, Public Works Director, Vice-Chair
Cameron Cutler, St. George City, Traffic Engineer
Mike Shaw, Washington City, Public Works Director
Rick Torgerson, UDOT Region Four, Program Manager
Todd Edwards for Ron Whitehead, Washington County, Public Works Director
Ross Romero, Washington City
Curt Hutchings, MPO, Transportation Manager, FCAOG
Ken Sizemore, Executive Director, Five County AOG
Diane Lamoreaux, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Doni Pack, Program Specialist, Five County AOG
Monty Thurber, St. George City
Bruce Fishburn, Stanley Consultants
Ronielle Howard, PB Americas

ABSENT

Steve Call, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Elden Bingham, UDOT Planning
Kelly Lund, FHWA, Planning Engineer
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director
Dave Demas, St. George City, City Engineer (Excused)
Lowell Elmer, Director, Dixie MPO (Excused)
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City Engineer
Ryan Marshall, General Manager, SunTran
Lynne Scott, BLM/Dixie Regional Bike and Pedestrian Committee

CALL TO ORDER / MINUTES

Dave Glenn, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance, noted that a quorum was not present and tabled action on minutes until a quorum arrived.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Update on COG Process: Curt Hutchings provided a quick summary of COG activities and noted that the meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m.. He reported that the COG has received project lists from cities and is hoping to refine those requests at an upcoming meeting. Todd Edwards indicated that St. George City has provided reports for their corridors which included Bluff Street. Mike Shaw mentioned that he has not been receiving notification of these meetings, but would follow up on the Washington Dam Road report which was submitted as the MPO #2 priority project. Committee members noted that the Southern Parkway also needs to be included on the MPO list and UDOT will need to provide a report as well. Rick Torgerson stated that UDOT has a corridor preservation fund and all of these types of funds are administered differently; some are established as revolving accounts and others are not. Todd reported that a second request has been forwarded to cities asking that they complete forms that include project cost estimates. It is anticipated that as always there will be a large amount of need and a small amount of funding available to address those needs. The COG would like to address needs as they occur for smaller pieces of right of way and not have funds build up to purchase larger amounts of right-of-way. It

was pointed out that all right-of-way purchases must have a willing seller involvement. The COG anticipates that cities and the county will continue to acquire right-of-way for potential development under their current process as projects move forward. Rick Torgerson mentioned that as corridors are identified and corridor plans are in place, sales would require a disclosure by agents to potential buyers that the subject property is a high priority corridor. Even though mayors are receiving notification of the COG meetings, it was suggested that staff consider attending as well to assist with any technical issues that may surface. Todd Edwards mentioned that the COG is also relying on the MPO and RPO to make suggestions in regard to setting priorities for corridor preservation funds.

Update on BRT Study: Curt Hutchings reported that AECOM is the contractor working of this particular study. All contracts are now in place, including the rural portion from Hurricane to Springdale. The contractor is in the process of making the determination of scheduling for public meetings/workshops. It is anticipated that the MPO portion of this study will be completed by the end of June. The other rural portion may go out further as a result of a slow start in getting contracts executed.

MINUTES

Dave Glen, Chair, noted that a quorum was present and presented minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting for discussion and consideration.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY TODD EDWARDS, TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2010 MEETINGS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

SHORT RANGE PLANNING

Current ARRA Funding: Black Ridge/Hilton Drive; Virgin River Bridge (Washington City): Rick Torgerson reported that Cameron Cutler is very close to finalizing payments on the Black Ridge/Hilton Drive project. It appears that approximately \$100,000 will be unexpended and available to shift to another project.

Mike Shaw reported that construction is scheduled to begin Monday on the Washington Fields Road (Virgin River Bridge) project. The contractor is Meadow Valley, out of Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Washington County. The majority of employees for this project reside in Washington County. There will be a tight window on drilling the piers because the contractor is required to be out of the water by April 1st based on the environmental document for this project.

Update on 2nd ARRA Program: Rick Torgerson reported that it appears that a second round of ARRA funds is not likely to happen. In fact, FHWA was shut down and only received a 30-day extension for highway bills. All employees, with the exception of those working on ARRA projects, were furloughed. Some type of bill will have to be in place in 30 days for federal highway funding to continue. The state of Utah is hoping that the current federal program stays alive. UDOT Region 4 currently has \$40 million in project ready to go out to bid next month. This is a balancing act where the state would have to carry all of the money and wait for federal reimbursement. Some states have postponed all highway construction. The state of Utah is lucky to have a healthy budget and has been able to cash flow projects until federal reimbursements are received.

UDOT Functional Classification (Updating Opportunity): No new information to be shared.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Curt Hutchings reviewed the long range plan project list including Phase I, Phase II, Phase III and Funded projects. Staff is requesting that committee members review projects to determine if some can be moved from Phase I to another phase or onto the funded list. Because of looming air quality issues, it is recommended that additional projects be added to the list prior to any pending requirements. It is anticipated that it will be harder to add projects as non-attainment status changes. This adds another layer of requirements for projects including FHWA approval of a regional air quality report before projects can move forward. Curt Hutchings explained that smaller MPO's are able to be 10% over the dollar amount in phases and Phase I is over slightly above that 10%. Mike Shaw indicated that the Washington Field Road listed in Phase I is from 3650 South. He also noted that the Buena Vista Road project is completed and can be moved to the funded list. The long range plan project list will be forwarded to committee members for review and this topic will be placed on future meeting agendas for further discussion. It was also pointed out that cities should also look at dollar amounts listed to see if adjustments may be in order.

DIXIE TIP

Outcome of Reconciliation of STP Dollars: Diane Lamoreaux provided copies outlining amounts which were programmed during the February 11, 2010 meeting. Lowell had listed amounts available above each year which were at 100%. Because of this funding was over programmed in 2014. In discussion with Lowell and Bob Pelly, MPO staff is recommending a more conservative approach for programming. Staff recommends that the three projects in 2014 be reduced by one-half to \$250,000 each. This will bring the dollars programmed into line with the conservative amount of approximately \$2.7 million.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY JACK TAYLOR, TO REDUCE FUNDING TO \$250,000 FOR THE DIXIE DRIVE, RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND OLD HIGHWAY 91 PROJECTS IN 2014. MOTION CARRIED.

Rick Torgerson indicated that as the Dixie Drive projects moves ahead there will be several new PIN's setup to deal with project phases. In addition, the origin and destination study may or may not occur in 2011. It is good that the MPO is forward thinking to include this on the TIP. However, as things progress the timing for this study may adjust. Ms. Lamoreaux also noted that the \$50,000 amount programmed for the CUBE network is a little low and UDOT is trying to see if some state funding may be available to fill this gap. This may be a topic that has to be addressed should additional funds be required. Draft copies of the Transit TIP provided by Ryan Marshall were handed out. It was pointed out that no ARRA dollar amounts are reflected on the table. MPO staff will discuss this with Ryan Marshall to determine if this needs to be included on the 2011-14 TIP.

STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS

Program Development - UDOT, Presentation on Dixie Drive Interchange Project: Rick Torgerson provided a report on the Dixie Drive project outlining the project schedule, budget, what to expect in terms of construction impacts and how the project will be delivered to the public. It was noted that St. George City is overseeing and managing the contract for the golf course relocation construction. The interchange will be a SPUI design and UDOT is trying to minimize traffic impacts on I-15 as much as possible.

The project will consist of four phases: 1) Procurement for bridges on Santa Clara River which will bid next week; 2) Slight shifting of I-15; 3) Work on local roadway systems; and 4) Clean up and

landscaping. Anticipated completion date is fall of 2011. A portion of right-of-way is in place and negotiations are on-going for other pieces. Utility companies will begin to relocate power lines and work will continue to address gas and sewer line locations. St. George City has submitted an application for an Enhancement Grant to assist with relocation of their trail system and landscaping around the new interchange. Decisions on Enhancement Grants will be made at the April Transportation Commission Workshop.

Rick Torgerson reported that the Bloomington interchange work is close to completion. Construction was delayed during winter months when temperatures were too low for paving. Construction on the Southern Parkway is moving forward and it is anticipated that it will be opened to the airport some time next summer. Reconstruction work on I-15 from milepost 17 to 36 in the Black Ridge area will soon begin. There will also be rehabilitation work this summer on I-15 from milepost 19 to 27 from Leeds up the canyon. Some of the I-15 on-ramps will be lengthened to extend acceleration lanes at more heavily utilized interchanges to address safety issues. Environmental document kickoffs for Bluff Street and I-15 will be scheduled in the near future. Consultant interviews for the Red Hills Parkway and Interchange will be conducted within the next week.

Cameron Cutler mentioned that St. George City has been working with UDOT on signal coordination for Telegraph and River Road to 1450 South. There has also been coordination for Bluff Street and St. George Boulevard. Rick Torgerson indicated that this type of work will continue to increase as the Traffic Control Center expands.

It was reported that the Washington Fields Road bill language was adjusted to include areas on the Washington Fields Road. It is anticipated that this road will tie into the Southern Parkway. Additional project approval will be presented to the State Transportation Commission in April or May which will result in establishment of another new PIN for this project.

The State Transportation Commission will be meeting in St. George on March 16-17, 2010. A tour will be scheduled on Tuesday and the meeting will be held in the Washington County Commission Chambers on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

Federal Oversight: None.

NEXT MEETING

Ken Sizemore reported that the job announcement is out for Lowell's position. A large number of applications have been submitted, many of which are from unqualified applicants who worked in the construction industry. Updated information will be provided at the next committee meeting. It is anticipated that a decision will be made and an individual will be on board in mid-April to receive some training from Lowell prior to his departure.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at the Five County Association of Governments Office, Conference Room beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE SHAW, SECONDED BY CAMERON CUTLER, TO ADJOURN.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.